



NEWS RELEASE

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Malibu Man Pleads in 2013 Shooting of Neighbor

A 29-year-old man pleaded no contest today to shooting his neighbor in the chest, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Brenda Lee said Patrick Kearns Leach of Malibu entered the plea to one count each of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and one count of shooting from a motor vehicle in case LA073224.

Leach also admitted allegations of causing great bodily injury, discharging a firearm causing great bodily injury, and discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle causing great bodily injury.

The defendant is expected to face 15 years in state prison at sentencing scheduled on June 29 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

On Jan. 9, 2013, Leach, son of the creator of the children's character "Barney," drove onto his neighbor's property and honked his horn until his neighbor came outside. Once the neighbor came outside to investigate the noise, the defendant accused his neighbor of trespassing and a verbal argument ensued, the prosecutor said.

Leach then fired several rounds from a semiautomatic firearm, striking his neighbor once in the chest, the prosecutor added. The victim survived the shooting.

The defendant fled the scene in his vehicle and was later pulled over by law enforcement, who found him wearing body armor with weapons inside the car, Lee said.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lost Hills Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.